Remarks

Claims 1-29 and 31-39 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-39 are rejected. Claims 1, 7, 9, 16, 17, and 21 have been amended. Claim 30 has been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully traverse the statement on page 3 of the Office Action. The statement states that in using the means of automatic for recitation "automatically updating a configuration", an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that the mere statement that a device is to be operated automatically instead of by hand, without a claim specifying any particular automatic mechanism, is not the statement of an invention. See In re Rundell, 9 USPQ 220 (1931). Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 recites a software package configured to automatically update and Claim 17 recites an a computer programmed to automatically update. The software package and the computer are automatic mechanisms.

The rejection of Claims 1-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salas et al. (U.S. Patent 5,862,391) is respectfully traversed.

Salas et al. describe a power management control system in which a plurality of power monitoring and control devices are coupled to a computer through a common bus (column 1, lines 5-10). After configuration of the devices is set, a SERVER button is selected on a SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen generating a menu from which RUN is selected, bringing the server on-line and disabling the configuration option (column 24, lines 16-20). From the menu generated by the SERVER button on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen, SUSPEND PROTOCOL is selected, which allows suspension of a protocol for purposes of analysis (column 24, lines 20-24). Once protocol analysis is completed, the menu generated by the SERVER button on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen displays a RESUME PROTOCOL, which is selected to resume protocol (column 24, lines 24-29). CPLMeterWFDataItem is a collection of `n` samples read from one of the devices, with a number of samples and sample's start address are read from an application's .INI file (column 20, lines 13-16).

Claim 1 recites a method for adding devices to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of "prompting a user to create a project; prompting the user to add devices to the project; executing a file to automatically configure the devices; generating screens for the devices added to the project; automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the devices and the screens; and restarting, by a programmable device, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said devices."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for adding devices as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting a run button after configuration of the devices is set, bringing the server on-line by selecting the run button, disabling the configuration option by selecting the run button, and reading, from a .INI file, a number of samples read from one of the devices. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 2-6 and 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 and 31-33 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-6 and 31-33 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 7 recites a power control management system comprising "a control computer; at least one intelligent end device interfaced to said control computer for controlling and monitoring power; and a software package comprising a user interface, an applications layer, an operating system and a Power Builder for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices to said power management control system, said Power Builder configured to build external applications onto a power management control project framework, automatically create points associated with said selected intelligent end devices, generate main menu screens for said selected intelligent end devices, and restart a project to which said at least one intelligent end device is added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said at least one intelligent end device, wherein said

software package is configured to automatically update a configuration of at least one of said selected intelligent end devices, said points, and said screens."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a power control management system as recited in Claim 7. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a Power Builder configured to restart a project to which the at least one intelligent end device is added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing at least one intelligent end device. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting a run button after configuration of the devices is set, bringing the server on-line by selecting the run button, disabling the configuration option by selecting the run button, and reading, from a .INI file, a number of samples read from one of the devices. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a Power Builder configured to restart a project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing at least one intelligent end device. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 8-16 and 34-35 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-16 and 34-35 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 8-16 and 34-35 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 17 recites a computer programmed to "prompt a user to create a project; prompt the user to select devices to be added to the project; configure the selected devices; generate screens for the selected devices; automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected devices and the screens; and restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the selected devices."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer as recited in Claim 17. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the selected devices. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting a run button after configuration of the devices is set, bringing the server on-line by selecting the run button, disabling the configuration option by selecting the run button, and reading, from a .INI file, a number of samples read from one of the devices. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and

changing the devices. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 17 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 18-20 and 36-37 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 17. When the recitations of Claims 18-20 and 36-37 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 17, Applicants submit that Claims 18-20 and 36-37 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 21 recites a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of "building an external application onto a project framework, wherein said building comprises: automatically configuring components associated with devices; generating main menu screens for the devices; and automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the components and the devices; and restarting, by a programmable device, a project to which the devices are added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices."

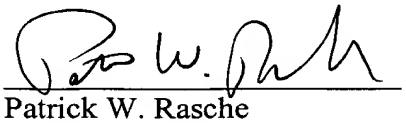
Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices as recited in Claim 21. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device, a project to which the devices are added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting a run button after configuration of the devices is set, bringing the server on-line by selecting the run button, disabling the configuration option by selecting the run button, and reading, from a .INI file, a number of samples read from one of the devices. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest restarting, by a programmable device, a project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 30 has been canceled. Claims 22-29 and 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. When the recitations of Claims 22-29 and 38-39 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicants submit that Claims 22-29 and 38-39 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-39 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070